

somewhat esoteric. To quote one example: "Palpation and percussion showed enlarged hilum structures on both sides, with slight infiltration in both apices, more marked on the right. The right side showed considerable lagging and the apical muscles on both sides were slightly degenerated, and also in spasm. The apical process, however, did not seem to be sufficiently active to account for the symptoms."

Treatment is dealt with in a conventional manner, although Dr. Pottenger's enthusiasm for tuberculin therapy will not be shared by all.

For the student interested in a clear, objective orientation in the field of tuberculosis, this book cannot be recommended; the recent works of Rich and of Pinner are much more suitable. However, for the specialist who is acquainted with the literature and able to form his own judgments, Dr. Pottenger's viewpoint will prove stimulating.

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HUTCHISON'S FOOD AND THE PRINCIPLES OF DIETETICS. Revised by V. H. Mottram, M.A. (Cant.). Sometime Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Late Professor of Physiology at King's College of Household and Social Science, University of London, and George Graham, M.D. (Cant.), consulting physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Tenth edition. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1948. \$6.75.

This is an encyclopedic volume dealing with the biochemical and nutritive value of foods and the physiology of digestion and metabolism. The first five chapters of Section I deal with the subject of diet in normal life, and cover the fundamental divisions of the field of nutrition, namely those dealing with energy; body building materials; the minerals, with emphasis placed on the importance of the significant ones. There is an excellent chapter on the historical and evolutionary background of the vitamins.

The next four chapters are devoted to the practical aspects of nutrition, emphasizing the optimal diet and its availability and the processing, storage, cooking, and protection of foods. The section closes with two chapters devoted to the physiology of normal nutrition, where the topics of digestion, absorption, and metabolism in health are given in considerable detail. A short chapter on the subject of food habits closes the section.

Section II deals with the nature of foods. The chapter on foods used for energy is very good and contains an excellent discussion of the cereals and a detailed analysis of breads and the potato. Two chapters in this section are devoted to the proteins, which are presented from the point of view of their biologic value, eggs heading the list, followed by milk and milk products. Another chapter deals with the foods prominent because of their mineral and vitamin contents. A short chapter deals with the subject of flavors and condiments, and the last chapter with beverages—water, tea, coffee and alcohol. The latter is a dispassionate presentation of information on the subject which is aimed at dispelling the uncritical preconceptions of the clinician.

Section III is devoted to the clinical principles of feeding in infancy and childhood. The subjects of substitutions for human milk, and proprietary foods are covered in detail. Section IV deals exclusively with the clinical problems involved in the use of diet in disease. The discussions of diet in the treatment of fevers, obesity, and constipation are very good. The sections dealing with diabetes, arthritis, renal calculus and anemia could be improved. The topics of anorexia nervosa, gout, osteomalacia, peptic ulcer, gastrointestinal disturbances, sprue, cirrhosis, cardiac failure, epilepsy, and the nephritides are covered with reasonable adequacy. And the final chapter gives a critical analysis and evaluation of the problem of artificial feeding.

This book is highly informative and well written. The sections which deal with the fundamental subjects of chemistry, physiology and metabolism are among the best in the field, and they far overshadow the clinical sections. The bibliography is very well chosen, pertinent and good. The table of contents is unusually full and descriptive of the text and combined with the index makes the book extremely easy to use.

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WAR, POLITICS, AND INSANITY. By C. S. Bluemel, M.D., The World Press, Inc., Denver, Colorado, 1948. \$2.00.

The first chapters of this small book deal with an explanation of some psychological terms applied to personality, and a consideration of these personality traits as they appear in great personages of history, in particular the conquerors and dictators. The author's thesis is that rather than our choosing our leaders for desirable characteristics, they force themselves on us because of their aggressive and compulsive natures. The last chapters deal with a possible solution to this problem in a democracy. The whole work seems quite superficial, and seems to bear out very well the statement of Dr. Walter Schaller, that psychiatrists are spreading themselves so thin that even their patients are beginning to see through them.

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ATLAS OF PLASTIC SURGERY. By Morton I. Berson, M.D., formerly director of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the Downtown Hospital and Pan-American Clinic, New York City. Grune and Stratton, 1948. \$15.00.

This is a book of 304 pages including the index. It begins with a diagrammatic representation of some of the procedures of plastic surgery and continues with short explanations of these various procedures as applied to the different parts of the body.

The text is very limited, as might be expected in an atlas, and often omits important factors in operation. The book is not well balanced in its attempt to cover the field of plastic surgery. For instance, six pages are devoted to reconstruction surgery of the hand and only four cases are illustrated. One of these is at fault in that a diagram of an already placed abdominal flap on the dorsum of the hand is shown in a drawing as completely dissected from the hand except at the line of the scar at the wrist. Such dissection would result in complete loss of this flap because blood supply would not be possible. In addition, the photograph of the final result in this case is taken at an angle instead of a full antero-posterior view so that the true result is not shown in the region of the webs of the fingers which, of course, it is supposed to illustrate. There are no illustrations or discussions of tendon surgery or nerve surgery of the hand. In comparison, there are 66 pages devoted to reconstruction surgery of the nose, the great majority of which illustrate so-called cosmetic surgery.

In a few illustrations of actual cases by the author there is a lack of final pictures. In reconstruction of the ear by the reviewer's method, as so captioned in the book, the author has missed some of the important steps in the operation and the reviewer does not like to be held responsible for the final result as shown in the photograph.

Of the two photographs of finished reconstruction of hare-lips showing repair of the original deformity, that of the repair of the bilateral cleft lip is utterly worthless as a photograph because it is badly out of focus or something has happened to the film so that the result cannot be seen.

For the untrained in plastic surgery too much is omitted and the problems are made to appear so simple that one would think he need only follow the diagrams of the Atlas to obtain easy results. The book will add nothing to the armamentarium of the trained plastic surgeon.